



BITS OF GOLD

Montana Talking Book Library

Regional Library of the National Library Service
For the Blind and Physically Handicapped
(NLS/BPH)

Volume 104, Number 1

2004

VISION REHABILITATION RESOURCES

Independence is important to most people. When vision loss occurs, it can be overwhelming to figure out how to do the simplest task. Take heart! There are services available that help a person make the most of their existing vision, be able to get around safely, learn new ways to do daily living tasks, cope with their vision loss, and receive support from others who have vision loss. Utilizing these services allows you to maintain your valuable independence. If you need assistance with any vision rehabilitation, the following are valuable resources for you:

American Academy of Ophthalmology. Web site: www.aao.org

American Optometric Association. Web site: www.aoanet.org

National Eye Institute—National Institutes of Health. Web site: www.nei.nih.gov

Lighthouse International. Call 1-800-829-0500. Ask for these publications:
Take Charge of Your Life with Vision Rehabilitation and Family and Friends Can Make a Difference! How to Help When Someone Close to You is Visually Impaired.

Montana School for the Deaf and Blind. Call 1-406-771-6000 or 1-800-882-6732.

Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services—Blind and Low Vision Services, Vocation and Rehabilitation Services. Call the office closest to you. **Billings** 1-888-279-7532, **Butte** 1-888-279-7531, **Great Falls** 1-888-279-7527, and **Missoula** 1-888-279-7528.

Montana Association for the Blind—Summer Orientation Program
Gail Brockbank, State Secretary 1-406-442-9411.

MAB SUMMER ORIENTATION PROGRAM

Montana Association for the Blind (MAB) will host the Summer Orientation Program (SOP) in Hannon Hall on the Montana State University—Bozeman campus from June 13th through July 9th. Independence and self-reliance are the benefits vision impaired individuals will receive by attending this program. The curriculum provides instruction in such skills as activities of daily living (ADL), Braille, computers (need knowledge of typewriter keyboards to attend this class), non-visual cooking skills, crafts, exercise, group discussion, low-vision aids, orientation & mobility (O&M), penmanship & typewriting, sewing, and wood working. Each student's class schedule is individualized.

An application, physical and visual exams are needed to apply for this program. The SOP committee reviews applications and will notify those accepted around June 1st. If you would like an application or have any questions about the Summer Orientation Program, please contact Montana Association for the Blind, PO Box 465, Helena, MT 59624 or phone them at 1-406-442-9411.

LIBRARY HOURS: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm **PHONE HOURS:** Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
PHONE NUMBERS: 1-800-332-3400 or 406-444-2064

For patron requests or if you're not sure who to contact, e-mail us at:
mtbl@state.mt.us

MTBL WEBSITE: www.msl.state.mt.us/tbl
WEBOPAC SITE: www.klasweb.msl.state.mt.us

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Lee Madison, lmadison@state.mt.us

BITS OF GOLD EDITOR: Cheryl Christopher

LIBRARIAN'S LOG: from the desk of Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian**OUTREACH...Reaching Out**

Yearly outreach goals allow us to deliver library service presentations in a few major cities in Montana. Other outreach activities include the presentation of a one-day class for MAB Summer Orientation Program students in Bozeman (see MAB-SOP article). We conduct an annual workshop at MTBL (in Helena) for Montana retirement facility activity directors sponsored by the Montana Healthcare Association. We receive many referrals from existing patrons currently using our services. We work with and receive many referrals from other state agencies serving visually impaired Montanans.

One agency in particular is responsible for the majority of referrals we receive. This is the **Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind and Low Vision Services (BLVS)**, under the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) Disability Services Division. Although the main administration office is located in Helena, outreach offices are in **Billings, Butte, Great Falls, and Missoula**.

Blind and Low Vision Services offer evaluations, training, resources, and equipment. These individuals travel great distances to bring resources to Montana citizens for use in their homes, as well as, offer trainings and evaluations in their four offices around the state. We are deeply indebted to these individuals for the fine service they provide.

Additional Outreach Efforts

Janet Hunter represented the Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL) at the 2004 Annual Community Health Fair in Great Falls on March 6th. A cooperative effort between BLVS, MAB, and MTBL offered valuable visual services.

Christie Briggs met with patrons in Baker, Billings, Crow Agency, Laurel, and Miles City in the fall of 2003 and gave presentations in Hamilton and Missoula in April 2004. Many thanks to Mary and Leonard Oberlander of Baker, Marge Mobley of Billings, Jackie Robinson of the Crow Agency, Mabel Badgett of Laurel's Low Vision support group, and Holy Rosary Staff of Miles City. And to Blanche Gerlach, of the new Hamilton Low-Vision support group, and Doug Robinson, Rehabilitation Teacher in Missoula's BLVS office.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world. Indeed. It is the only thing that ever has—Margaret Mead

DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS FROM 2003

The Montana Talking Book Library staff appreciates the thoughtfulness of those who contributed to our library in 2003. Acknowledgments are sent to all donors. Their generosity enables us to purchase equipment and provide programs that our budget does not cover. Our patrons will enjoy many years of pleasure from these gifts. When making a donation in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone, please include the name of the person for whom the tribute is made and the name and address of those to be notified of your gift. Many thanks and blessings to the following contributors:

DONATIONS:

Betty Anderson	Cookie & Tom Basinger	Betty Lou & Richard Berg
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Did you know that Montana has one of the highest voter turnout rates in the U.S.? The right to vote for the people who govern our country is the foundation upon which our democracy is based. To be eligible to vote in the upcoming elections, you must be 18 years old or older on or before the next election. You must be a citizen of the United States and have lived in Montana and the county where you'll vote, for at least 30 days. And, most importantly, you must be **Registered to Vote**.

The Secretary of States' web site (www.sos.state.mt.us/) provides other information on the elections besides voter registration such as absentee ballots, ballot measures, and the information on the candidates. If you are not registered, you may do so by contacting one of the following: the Election Bureau at 406-444-4732 or the Secretary of State's toll-free voter hotline at 1-888-884-8683 or their web site. The "Voter's Pamphlet" will be available on cassette in October.

This year Montanans will vote for the United States president, vice president and U.S. representative. Also on the ballot are the Montana governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state auditor, and superintendent of public instructions. There will be choices for the Public Service Commission, the state Supreme and District Courts, and the Legislature. The Primary Election is on June 8th and the General Election is on November 2nd.

Exercise your rights: register, learn about the candidates, and VOTE!

RECORDING PROGRAM: BEHIND THE SCENES, Part 3

The Montana Talking Book Library has been recording books on tape since 1983. During that time, we have recorded 715 Montana Cassette Books. There have been 132 recording teams. An essential part of these teams is the **Reader**.

An audition is the first step to becoming a Reader. An audition-recording sample is sent to MTBL's Patron Audition Committee and critiqued. Each patron committee member receives a copy of the audition tape and listens to the Reader. They will check for such characteristics as a voice that is clear, firm, distinct, and has an appropriate pitch. The Audition members listen for detracting mannerisms such as lip smacks, teeth clicks, scratchiness, nasality, excessive accents, etc. They are also concerned about an appropriate pace, clear difference between narrative and the character's dialogue, and correct punctuation. The Reader should also sound genuine and interested in what they are reading.

Once accepted, their work begins. Most Readers agree, "Preparation is crucial". Usually they read their chosen book several times; at least once out loud to get the "feel" of the author's intent. One Reader said her goal is, "to read in such a way that the listener is kept interested and the author's goals come through". Another Reader feels, "I need to do my best in preparing and recording these books that authors have worked so hard to write". A Reader checks for pronunciation and meaning of words and names. It is important enough that they will even contact the author or other area resources to obtain the correct pronunciation. A pleasant voice and a good sense of expression are both talents each of these Readers share. A saying they all agree with is "Practice makes perfect".

Each Reader has expressed they love to read and one said, "Words are fascinating, mysterious, and delicious." Some feel that being able to read is, "a gift that gives me joy to share with others". They are, "making a difference to someone". It "broadens their world" as they learn from what they are reading. Their commitment is a gift to our patrons. One Reader says, "Thank You" for giving them this opportunity.

A round of applause to the Montana Talking Book Library Readers:

Al Adams, Frank Adams, Bonnie Anderson, Lea Blunn, Charlie Briggs, Judy Browning, Ed Canty, Frank Graham, Dorothy Harper, Barbara Harris, John Holbrook, Bob Holmes, JoAnn Mayala, Lorna McMurray, Jim Meier, Colleen Mockler, Mary Olson, Cyd Slatterly, Jean Smith, Ruth Straley, and Mike Sullivan.

We hope you enjoy the books they read for you!

RECENT TITLES FROM THE MONTANA RECORDING PROGRAM

MCB 670 **Spirit Tailings, Ghost Tales from Virginia City, Butte and Helena**
by Ellen Baumler; Reader—Jean Smith

These stories are about ghostly figures, recorded events, and haunted places found in the Montana cities of Butte, Helena, and Virginia City.

MCB 672 **Fifty Years After The Big Sky** edited by William Farr & William Bevis;
Reader—Bob Holmes

Fifty Years After The Big Sky examines the life and legacy of A.B. Guthrie, Jr. In this anthology; historians, public intellectuals, and writers remember and celebrate this powerful author. This book also challenges readers to reassess Guthrie's work and its influence on American culture.

MCB 690 **King of the Mountain** by Pete Fromm;
Reader—Richard Murphy

Pete Fromm writes about a variety of experiences in this collection of eighteen stories; all set against a vivid background of hunting and fishing. The relationship between fathers and sons is a common theme.

MCB 697 **When Montana and I Were Young** by Margaret Bell;
Reader—JoAnn Mayala

Margaret Bell (1888-1982) was a rancher and horse breaker. Her memoir tells the story of a frontier childhood on the high plains of Montana and Canada. In Margaret's later years, she claimed to have been the first white baby born in Great Falls. Some descriptions of violence.

**"A library is not a luxury, but one of the necessities of life."
--Henry Ward Beecher**

NEW DESCRIPTIVE VIDEOS (DV'S)

The DV's listed here are the newest in our collection. As an aid to you, they are placed under the ratings that were obtained from their video jackets.

RATED: G = General Audiences (All Ages)

- DV 249 ASSIGNMENT DISCOVERY "THE PRIVATE LIFE OF PLANTS"
- DV 256 THE BLUE PLANET "SEAS OF LIFE"
- DV 250 BOB THE BUILDER
- DV 259 FINDING NEMO
- DV 232 FRANKLIN THE TURTLE
- DV 261 HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
- DV 230 AN INSIDE LOOK "THE FLU"
- DV 251 KIPPER "THE RESCUE"
- DV 257 THE LION KING—PLATINUM EDITION
- DV 233 LITTLE BEAR
- DV 252 LITTLE BEAR "WHERE LUCY WENT"
- DV 234 LITTLE BILL
- DV 231 THE ULTIMATE GUIDE "HUMAN BODY PART 1"
- DV 235 A WALK IN YOUR SHOES
- DV 255 WILD DISCOVERY "CLEVER CRITTERS"

RATED: PG = Paternal Guidance Suggested (Some Material May Not Be Suitable for Children)

- DV 239 "HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS" (remake with Jim Carrey)
- DV 240 HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER'S STONE
- DV 245 LILO & STITCH
- DV 246 SCOOPY-DOO, THE MOVIE
- DV 262 SHREK
- DV 258 SPY KIDS

RATED: PG-13 = Parents Strongly Cautioned (Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13)

- DV 268 BRUCE ALMIGHTY
- DV 266 CHICAGO
- DV 267 THE COLOR PURPLE
- DV 263 DAREDEVIL
- DV 243 DIVINE SECRETS OF THE YA-YA SISTERHOOD
- DV 264 MINORITY REPORT
- DV 271 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: THE CURSE OF THE BLACK PEARL
- DV 247 SIGNS

NEW DESCRIPTIVE VIDEOS

RATED: PG-13 = Parents Strongly Cautioned (Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13)

DV 237 THE SIXTH SENSE
DV 248 SPIDER-MAN
DV 253 TWILIGHT ZONE "DUST"
DV 254 TWILIGHT ZONE "A GAME OF POOL"
DV 265 TWO WEEKS NOTICE

RATED: R = Restricted (Under 17 Requires Accompanying Parent or Adult Guardian)

DV 229 10 TO MIDNIGHT
DV 236 L.A. CONFIDENTIAL
DV 238 SAVING PRIVATE RYAN
DV 241 MATRIX
DV 242 BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY
DV 244 INSOMNIA
DV 269 MATRIX RELOADED
DV 270 GANGS OF NEW YORK

The Descriptive Video is a movie recorded in VHS format that also includes a narrator "describing" what is happening when the actors are not speaking. MTBL's Descriptive Video (DV) collection is obtained from privately donated funds. Those patrons who have been receiving book service for at least six months are eligible to check out these videos. You need to have a VCR; we only provide the videos. The loan period is one DV for one week. It must be returned in good condition before you can get another one. There will be a new DV catalog available in August 2004.

RECORDINGS FOR RECOVERY (R4R)

Do you enjoy listening to music? Some folks say music is food for the soul. It is also known that music helps heal and lift spirits. Music is one of the pleasures in life. As a patron of MTBL, you are eligible to become a member of the Recordings for Recovery music library. R4R members can check out music tapes for 60 days. These tapes come to you through the mail "Free Matter for the Blind". The annual fee for an individual member is \$10.00 per year. Some alternative memberships are available for those who cannot afford this fee. To become a member of R4R's music library, call them toll-free at 1-800-798-1192. They will send you an information packet that includes a catalog, large print order form, and membership information.

ONE BOOK MONTANA 2004

Montana Center for the Book is a program of the Montana Committee for the Humanities. They believe literature is a tool we can use to understand others better and bring us closer together. One of their programs that help accomplish this is the One Book Montana.

The 2004 selection is Fools Crow (RC 25273) by James Welch. This story is set in post-civil war Montana. Welch uses a third person, Native American voice to weave his tale about life in a Blackfeet tribe and their struggle with the white men invading their land.

Everyone is invited to read Fools Crow and participate in some of the programming and suggestions that will be listed on the Montana Center for the Book web site. For more information, contact Montana Center for the Book by either calling toll-free in Montana: 1-800-624-6011 or in Missoula: 243-6022. Their web site is www.montanabook.org.

OTHER BOOKS BY JAMES WELCH

- RC 15012 The Death of Jim Loney
- RC 53056 The Heartsong of Charging Elk
- RC 33536 Indian Lawyer
- RC 41407 Killing Custer: The Battle of Little Big Horn
- RC 33989 Riding the Earthboy Forty: Poems
- RC 13365 Winter in the Blood

PATRON PICKS

- RC 11128 Westerns of the 40's: Classics from the Great Pulps
edited by Damon Francis Knight
- RC 26979 Hot Money by Dick Francis
- RC 32020 Gift by Julie Garwood
- RC 32548 James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl Grades 4-7
- RC 41788 Frontier Lady by Judith Pella
- RC 45574 Death Takes Passage by Sue Henry
- RC 47044 The Hammer of Eden by Ken Follett

DID YOU LIKE LORD OF THE RINGS?

Did you want the adventure to continue? How often have you read a series and didn't want it to stop? Even though it was wonderful to be immersed in Tolkien's tale of good overcoming evil, it is the nature of quests that they eventually come to the end. The good news is that other authors have written series about adventures, quests, and resolving the never-ending struggle between good and evil. Try some of the following series:

<u>Belgariad Series</u>	David Eddings	<u>Dark is Rising Series</u>	Susan Cooper
<u>Chronicles of Narnia</u>	C.S. Lewis	<u>Redwall Series</u>	Brian Jacques
<u>Chronicles of Prydain</u>	Lloyd Alexander	<u>Rowan Series</u>	Emily Rodda
<u>The Enchanted Forest Chronicles</u>	Patricia C. Wrede		

FEDERAL STUDENT AIDE GUIDE

The Department of Education has developed the Federal Student Aid Guide. This guide is also available in alternate formats like audio compact disc and Braille. A review of this program's eligibility criteria, application procedure, loan repayment options, and deferment and cancellation provisions is given. Nonfederal sources of aid are provided too. To obtain this guide, call the Federal Student Aid Information Center toll-free at 1-800-433-3243 or their web site at www.studentaid.ed.gov.

NEW TECHNOLOGY IN MINIATURE

Advances in miniaturization of electronic products already in use have made smaller gadgets more readily available to low-vision patrons. Some research has shown these electronic or optical aids also create a decline in depression for users.

One example is The Quicklook—a color, portable CCTV. It weighs only 10 ounces and is 6-1/2 " x 3-3/4" x 1" thick. The 4" LCD flat screen magnifies up to 6X. This handy unit has positive and negative reading modes, as well as, 4 contrast levels for image enhancement. Contact Lighthouse International at 1-800-829-0500 with any questions about this product or any vision questions.

UPDATE—NFB NEWSLINEâ IN MONTANA

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) no longer offers free Montana individual subscriptions due to grant expiration. A "state NFB-NEWSLINE® subscription" sponsor is being sought to cover the \$20,600.00 annual fee. Until a sponsor can be identified, this service will not be available in Montana. A valuable local alternative is the Radio Reading Service, located in Missoula, which offers free statewide newspaper services. Call them at 1-800-942-7323 to apply for service.

**Montana Talking Book Library
1515 East Sixth Avenue
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620-1800**

**Free Matter
for the Blind**

Address Service Requested

This newsletter is available on cassette, e-mail and large print upon request or visit our website: <http://www.msl.state.mt.us/tbl>

ARE YOU READY TO EXPLORE?

“Read...Your Guide to Discover New Worlds” is the theme for this year’s MTBL Summer Reading Program. Invitations and reading contracts will be mailed out to our young patrons the week of May 10th. This program starts June 7th and ends August 13th. Whether you are exploring old or new trails, making new discoveries, or investigating answers to questions; we hope you’ll join us.

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON THESE HOLIDAYS

Monday	May 31, 2004	Memorial Day
Monday	July 5, 2004	Fourth of July
Monday	September 6, 2004	Labor Day
Monday	October 11, 2004	Columbus Day
Tuesday	November 2, 2004	Election Day
Thursday	November 11, 2004	Veteran’s Day
Thursday	November 25, 2004	Thanksgiving Day
Friday	December 24, 2004	Christmas Eve
Friday	December 31, 2004	New Year’s Eve